SUBJECTS.

31. The desirability of fixing a consolidated amount of 100 fanams as the institution fee in suits for the cancellation of pattas, in modification of Civil Circular No. 14 of 1068.

Mr. N. G. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) said that, at present, the institution fee for the cancellation of pattas was levied on the value of the property. A simple mistake of the Settlement authorities in issuing a patta in a wrong name involved the wastage of a large sum of money for the cancellation of the patta. Under the British Court Fees Act, the institution fee was Rs. 10 in suits for the declaration of title to property, when not accompanied by a prayer for any consequential relief. He also referred to the Bill amending the Court Fees Regulation, in which provision was made for an institution fee of Rs 10 in suits "to alter "or cancel any entry in a register of the names of proprietors "of revenue paying estates"; but he was doubtful if the suits contemplated in the above provision should not be brought within one year. Many pattas still remained to be cancelled, as people believed that there was a time-limit of 12 years. The Member prayed that, if the provision applied only to suits to be brought within one year, Rs. 10 should be fixed as the fee to be levied for suits for the declaration of title, as in British India, or that the suits for the cancellation of pattas be permitted to be brought within 12 years with a fixed fee.

Dewan's reply.—The law has been only recently amended. I am afraid that it is not practicable to amend it again now.

32. The acceptance by the Civil Courts of copies of documents presented with the originals after comparison.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Quilon Trading Classes) said that the account books such as the *Nalvazhi* and the *Peradu* were needed by the merchants for everyday use and that their delayed return by the Courts, where they had been produced in connection with some cases, caused great inconvenience. Not only did tampering with the records take place through the influence of interested parties, but some of the suits to be brought with reference to the accounts became time-barred. To obviate these difficulties, the Member suggested that the parties or witnesses presenting account books should be allowed to produce copies of the same as well, and the books should be returned to the parties after comparing the copies with the originals.

Dewan's reply.—The High Court object to the copies being prepared by the parties and they say that all copies should be prepared in the Court itself. The request is for account books being treated differently from other documents. The High Court will be addressed on this aspect of the question.

33. Mahomedans should be exempted from attendance in Courts on Fridays.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) spoke on the need for observing Friday as a holiday for the Mahomedans and requested that orders be issued for exempting them from attendance in Courts on Fridays. He

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